

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Howard Lee on February 22, 2012.

The application has been amended as follows:

In The Claims

52. (Currently amended) A method for producing unidirectionally elastic adhesive bandage comprising the steps of: providing a unidirectionally elastic bandage, with adhesive on one side, for supporting joints, comprising: a backing layer which is unidirectionally elastic in one direction selected from the group consisting of a longitudinal direction and a transverse direction and non-elastic in the other direction; an adhesive layer, and a releasable protective layer; characterized in that the bandage is embodied as a segment with the backing layer having elastic areas and has an elasticity in the elastic areas of the backing layer in the range of 20% to 150%; characterized in that the bandage segment is transversely elastic or longitudinally elastic; characterized in that the adhesive is applied across an entire surface of backing layer or on a part of an underside of the backing layer or in the form of patterns; and characterized in that one or more defined areas of the segment are elastic and the segment also contains non-elastic areas, wherein the one or more defined areas of the segment which are elastic are surrounded by non-elastic areas;

coating silicone-treated paper/film with an adhesive-containing solution;

covering the laminate of releasable paper/film and adhesive layer with the unidirectionally elastic backing layer; and

punching the bandage segments out from narrow or wide rolls of the laminate.

[elastic bandage, with adhesive on one side, for supporting joints, comprising:

a backing layer which is unidirectionally elastic in one direction selected from the group consisting of a longitudinal direction and a transverse direction and non-elastic in the other direction;

an adhesive layer, and

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a releasable protective layer;

characterized in that the bandage is embodied as a segment with the backing layer having elastic areas and has an elasticity in the elastic areas of the backing layer in the range of 20% to 150%;

characterized in that the bandage segment is transversely elastic or longitudinally elastic;

characterized in that the adhesive is applied across an entire surface of backing layer or on a part of an underside of the backing layer or in the form of patterns; and

characterized in that one or more defined areas of the segment are elastic and the segment also contains non-elastic areas, wherein the one or more defined areas of the segment which are elastic are surrounded by non-elastic areas.]

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KIM M. LEWIS whose telephone number is (571)272-4796. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday, from 5:30 am to 12:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patricia Bianco, can be reached on (571) 272-4940. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/KIM M LEWIS/
Primary Examiner
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Kml
February 22, 2012